

MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION

Student collusion in practicals

Following advice from the Senior Proctor relating to collusion in assessed practicals, the Division has identified the following points for general application in the Division.

- The boundaries of cooperation in assessed practicals should be clearly set out. One possible rule, if consistent with the legitimate learning process, would be to limit cooperation to within the practical itself, and to make that a clear rule i.e., no co-operation should occur in the write up. There needed to be subject-specific rules to cover this, going down to the details of the sort of software that is used, and the degree of cooperation in the use of the software that is permitted.
- The definition of plagiarism should be clearly explained to students, and set out in the course literature, both the University's definition, and subject-specific rules, again covering amongst other things the use of subject-specific software and websites where appropriate.
- The use of the Turnitin plagiarism detection software is to be encouraged.
- The severity of the penalties that might be applied by the Proctors and Disciplinary Panel should be brought to students' attention; there have been instances of a five mark deduction from the students' *overall* final marks.